

Appln No. 09/711,648
Amdt date September 17, 2008
Reply to Office action of March 25, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final rejection dated March 25, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Abele, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,311). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9 and 23 to recite at least one puller wire having proximal and distal ends, and a deflection control handle separate from the needle control handle. Abele fails to teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9 and 23, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10-15, 17-20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47, are allowable over Abele.

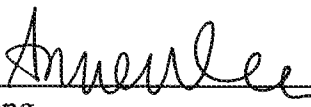
The Examiner also rejected claims 4, 16 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Abele, either alone or in combination with Cosman (U.S. Patent No. 4,966,597). However, each of claims 4, 16 and 26 depends from one of independent claims 1, 9 and 23, all of which are allowable over Abele, as discussed above. Cosman fails to remedy the deficiencies of Abele as Cosman also fails to teach or suggest all the features of amended independent claims 1, 9 and 23. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9 and 23, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4, 16 and 26, are allowable over Abele and Cosman.

Claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 23. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-25, 39 and 42-47 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

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reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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